

REMARKS

Applicants submit herewith amended claims for consideration in connection with applicants' Request for Continued Examination filed November 6, 2009. This amendment is supplemental to the Amendment After Final submitted October 16, 2009. Claims 1-4, 6-17, 20-37, and 40-47 were pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 20-22, 28, 29, 31, 40, 41, and 44-47 have been amended. Claim 27 has been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 6-17, 20-26, 28-37, and 40-47 are now pending in the application.

The undersigned counsel thanks Examiner Brooks for the time and consideration he has extended in contacting the applicants to identify allowable subject matter. Although the present communication includes amendments to the claims, applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, the amendments submitted herewith are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child, or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Claims 3, 8, 14, 22, 25, 26, 28, 34, 43, 44, and 47 currently stand withdrawn as being non-elected in response to the Restriction Requirement of December 24, 2008. As Claims 3, 8, 14, 22, 25, 26, 28, 34, 43, 44, and 47 are dependent on allowable base claims, applicants request rejoinder and allowance of the non-elected claims.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 1-4, 6-17, 20-26, 28-37, and 40-47 are believed to be in allowable condition. Should any issues remain needing resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned counsel at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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